

April 6, 1955

Dr. Ralph Lewin
Maritime Regional Research Laboratory
National Research Council
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Ralph:

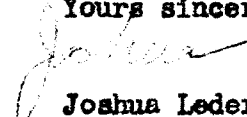
Since last summer, I have been greatly disturbed by reports that your position at Halifax has become somewhat uncomfortable and that you might be anxious to go elsewhere. Of course, I have been on the lookout for promising openings, as one would in any event, but I am writing to ask you candidly how serious the situation is, and if there is any way I might furnish catalytic assistance.

There is so much loose money floundering around the U.S. now in search of half-way decent science to support that it would be tragic and foolish not to find some way of using it, if it is needed. If we but had the space in our own lab, I would hasten to ask you to help occupy it, and doubt that there would be any trouble finding a research subsidy. The only possibility that still does come to mind is to try to persuade one of my colleagues in Botany or Biochemistry or Bacteriology to do the same, or to stand as a joint sponsor with me. But before I do any serious meddling, I want to be sure that it would be welcome on your part, hence this letter.

Would you then be interested that I pursue the possibility of finding a "research associateship" for you, and for Joyce as well I trust? I see only a limited prospect of a permanent appointment here, but I should think that a year or two here would give you ample opportunity, and a more strategic base, for finding a definitive place. But I can't go ahead without your advice. I should also know the level of your present stipend, and Joyce's if any. I hope my writing at all is not too presumptuous, and I would not want to encourage false hopes on what is so far an intangible notion, but if there is any truth at all to the rumors that have floated down here, there is a situation that should be corrected, not by way of patronization, but just common sense. If I have been misinformed, or am intruding, I shall be happy to learn it.

With best wishes from Esther,

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg